

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

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R 211530Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5973

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 0220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CS

SUBJECT: SUGAR

REF: (A) STATE 241850

(B) SAN JOSE 4276

1. AGATT MADE CALL ON EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LIGA-
AGRICOLA INDUSTRIAL DE LA CANA DE AZUCAR TO GUAGE
CURRENT STATUS OF COSTA RICAN SUGAR EXPORTS OUTLOOK
AS PROCESSING NEW HARVEST HAS JUST BEGUN. EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY SAID THAT THUS FAR 20,000 SHORT TONS CONTRACTED
AND ADDITIONAL 16,000 TONS CURRENTLY BEING CONTRACTED,
ALL FOR U.S. MARKET. HE STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT
WORLD PRICE CURRENTLY HIGHER THAN U.S. PRICE BY \$3
PER CWT ON AN FOB BASIS. NONETHELESS, THEIR DESIRE
IS TO CONTINUE TO SELL TO U.S. TO MEET QUOTA AND PROSERVE
HISTORICAL RECORD.

2. SECRETARY AGAIN REITERATED THAT LAST SEASON WHEN
SALES MADE TO WORLD MARKET, U.S. QUOTA WAS COVERED
AND LIGA NEEDED REVENUE IN ORDER TO PAY PROCESSORS
HE SAID THAT IF U.S. QUOTA INCREASES HAD BEEN AVAILABLE
N TIME, COSTA RICA COULD HAVE EXPORTED AROUND
30,000 TONS MORE TO U.S. THAN WAS ACTUALLY SHIPPED.

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3. LIGA MORE CAUTIOUS ON EXPORT AVAILABILITY
ESTIMATE SINCE LAST DISCUSSIONS (REF B). CITED AS
CAUSING UNCERTAINTY: PROSPECTS FOR CONTRABAND SUGAR
EXPORTS TO PANAMA SINCE THAT COUNTRY RECENTLY RAISED
PRICE OF SUGAR ABOUT 45 PERCENT; PROBLEMS WITH KEEPING
MACHINERY OPERATING DUE SCARCITY OF SPARE PARTS AND
DELAYED OCEAN DELIVERY; AND CONTINUED PROBLEM OF
OBTAINING SUFFICIENT SEASONAL LABOR. STATED THAT EXPORTS
WOULD AT LEAST REACH 100,000 TONS BUT LESS CERTAIN ABOUT
BEING AS HIGH AS 120,000.

4. COMMENT: INDICATIONS ARE THAT LIGA WILL COMPLY
WITH U.S. QUOTA AND WOULD STILL PREFER TO MAINTAIN
HISTORICAL PATTERN OF EXPORTING ALL SUGAR TO U.S.
IF QUOTA ENLARGED SUFFICIENTLY AND TIMELY DURING 1974.
IT SEEMS APPARENT THAT IF ASSURANCES COULD BE GIVEN TO
LIGA THAT QUOTA WOULD BE ENLARGED SUFFICIENTLY, THEY
MIGHT BE WILLING TO HOLD SUGAR OFF WORLD MARKET.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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30 JUN 2005

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